

(Washington, DC)- Milwaukee native Debra Lee Fifer received a Celebration of Leadership Unsung Hero Award at this year's Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Annual Legislative Conference, a distinction that is bestowed yearly by the CBC Spouses in order to recognize citizens who work to improve our communities. Nominated by Congresswoman Gwen Moore for founding Mothers Against Gun Violence (MAGV) in Milwaukee, Fifer has been instrumental in creating and lobbying for the Responsible Gun Ownership Bill in both the state assembly and state senate.

"Debra Fifer is truly an unsung hero. She has made the public's safety and well-being her highest priority, as evidenced by her work with Mothers Against Gun Violence and by her 14 year service to the state as a Youth Advocate Counselor," Congresswoman Moore said. "Her efforts to reduce gun violence are admirable, and they truly honor the life of her son."

In 2003, Fifer's son, Kirk Bickham Jr., and his two friends were shot and killed by a felon who had purchased the gun from its registered owner, according to the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms report Fifer later obtained. Through her own research, Fifer discovered that private gun sales are not registered in Wisconsin, and therefore felons and minors have access to deadly weapons. After founding MAGV, Fifer approached State Senator Spencer Coggs and State Representative Leon Young about closing this loophole, and both agreed to introduce the Responsible Gun Ownership Bill (SB148, AB288).

Since then, the Milwaukee County Board and the Milwaukee City Council have each drafted and passed resolutions in support of the Responsible Gun Ownership Bill, guaranteeing that both the County Board and the City Council will send a lobbyist to the state capital to push for its passage.

Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District, which Congresswoman Moore represents, consists of the City of Milwaukee, St. Francis, Cudahy, South Milwaukee, West Milwaukee, and part of West Allis.

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